Alberta
Government

2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey

A place-to-place price comparison survey of selected Alberta communities

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Survey Results
Methodology and Analysis

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In September 2007, Alberta Finance, Statistics conducted a Spatial Price Survey on behalf of Alberta Education. This report presents the survey findings for 34 Alberta communities with Edmonton designated as the reference base (i.e. Edmonton = 100.0).

Similar surveys were conducted in:

- April of 2001 for 10 Alberta communities,
- June of 2003 for 34 Alberta communities,
- April of 2005 for 36 Alberta communities.

For reference purposes, the most current population statistics for each location are provided in Table 1.

The following sections of this report introduce the concept of price indices, describe how the indices relate to the data presented; detail the survey design and methodology employed; and provide an analysis of the Edmonton based comparisons. A detailed list of food and non-food categories is presented at the conclusion of this report.

Table 1: 2007 Alberta Population by Community

COMMUNITY	POPULATION	COMMUNITY	POPULATION
Athabasca	2,575	Jasper[†]	4,643
Barrhead	4,209	Lethbridge	81,692
Brooks	13,581	Lloydminster	16,786
Calgary	1,019,942	Medicine Hat	56,997
Camrose	15,850	Olds	7,248
Canmore	12,039	Peace River	6,315
Cold Lake	12,860	Pincher Creek	3,625
Drayton Valley	6,893	Ponoka	6,576
Drumheller	7,932	Red Deer	85,705
Edmonton	730,372	Rocky Mtn House	7,231
Fort McMurray[*]	65,400	Slave Lake	7,031
Grande Cache	3,783	St. Paul	5,441
Grande Prairie	50,227	Stettler	5,418
Hanna	2,847	Taber	7,591
High Level	3,887	Vegreville	5,520
High Prairie	2,836	Wainwright	5,426
High River	10,716	Whitecourt	8,971
Hinton	9,769		

Source: "2007 Official Population List", Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing, Municipal Services Branch

[*] Figure represents the urban service area (Fort McMurray) of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, with shadow population = 2,811.

[†] Figure represents the Municipality of Jasper with shadow population = 802.

2.0 BACKGROUND

This section provides a brief background describing the "aggregate" or "complex" price index employed in this survey.

2.1 SPATIAL PRICE INDICES

A price index is a ratio of two numbers: a comparative price and the base price to which it is compared. Indices are tools to measure the differences in one price relative to the other and may be constructed to measure price differences for individual commodities, for a basket of goods, or for a group of commodities. An index that measures differences in individual commodities is referred to as a "price relative" or a "simple price index" whereas an index that measures differences between a group/basket of goods generally represents an "aggregate" or "complex" price index.

The value of the base is generally established at 100.0 with all other prices expressed in terms of this base. An index with a value greater than 100.0 indicates that prices are higher than the base price or vice versa and allows for comparison and interpretation in percentage terms. For example, an index of 120.0 indicates a twenty percent difference between the base point and the index value inferring that prices are twenty percent higher than the reference base. An index of 90.0 would signify prices are ten percent lower.

There are several different types of price index measurements. The price index produced for this publication is a **spatial price index**, which is location based and compares the prices of one or more commodities between various locations at a **specific point in time**. Spatial indices may be used to 1) compare one reference location and several communities, and 2) measure price differences between any two communities. For the purpose of this survey, only comparisons with one reference location (Edmonton) and several communities can be made. Since a spatial index does not measure price movements over time but measures price differences between communities, price levels within the comparable communities are always collected at one point in time in order to remove any time related biases.

For the purposes of this survey, aggregate or complex price indices are generated.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Purpose of Survey

The purpose of the 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is to measure price differences between selected Alberta communities and Edmonton for a specific basket of goods and services at a specific point in time. The price differentials are measured through the construction of spatial price indices for the selected survey communities.

3.2 Survey Design & Content

The following steps were used to construct a spatial price index:

1. The survey communities are chosen;
2. A basket of goods and services to be surveyed must be selected; and
3. The prices of these goods and services must be collected during a specified time period in each community.

For the 2007 survey, the sponsor selected 34 Alberta communities with Edmonton designated as the reference location.

The goods and services used for this survey are similar to the survey items used by Statistics Canada to construct monthly Consumer Price Indices for Alberta cities. A total of 292 goods and services form a subset of Statistic Canada's basket of survey items and were selected based on the following criteria:

1. The items comprise those goods and services perceived to be regularly purchased by Alberta consumers (based on the Survey of Household Spending) living in cities, and medium/small sized towns.
2. The items are judged to be available in most of the selected communities to allow price comparability.

Each item is associated with a retail price such that a sum of money must be paid by a consumer in order to purchase a specific quantity and quality of a good or service.

With the survey locations and a basket of goods and services selected, a pricing period is then established. To minimize time related biases, prices in all centres were collected within a two week period from September 17 to 28, 2007.

To ensure accuracy and consistency in the pricing of the 292 item basket of goods and services, it was essential that all the items be carefully matched across all communities. In order to facilitate this process, pricers were provided with specification sheets containing a detailed description of each article to be priced, including brand name, quantity and size. Survey personnel were asked to price the specified item.

If the specified brand was not available, pricers were asked to price a close substitute and record details such as size and style number; and also, provide a detailed description of the item. This substitute item was then priced in Edmonton or a reasonably comparable substitute's price was used, to ensure comparability between the two communities. In this manner, item consistency was assured between Edmonton and each community but could differ among communities for some articles. If a reasonable substitute was unavailable in some communities, these articles were excluded from the survey list for those particular centres.

3.3 Special Pricing Procedures

Certain goods and services could not be directly priced in the field through retail or service outlets found in the survey communities. Items that required special pricing procedures included monthly housing payments, rental costs, property taxes, and utilities such as natural gas, electricity, water, garbage disposal, and sewage charges.

Calculating monthly housing payments and mortgage interest costs for each community required several steps. Housing prices were first collected in each community for several styles of single detached residential dwellings. A variety of secondary data sources such as Alberta Municipal Affairs, Royal LePage, Survey of Canadian House Prices, and local real estate boards or agencies provided and/or confirmed housing prices for each community. Several home details such as age of dwelling, square footage of home and lot, amenities, the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, etc. were taken into consideration in pricing a similar home in Edmonton. A survey of the average mortgage down payment and mortgage rates for a one, three and five year term as of September 2007 was conducted. The mortgage rates were blended to calculate an average mortgage interest of 6.39 per cent as of September 2007. This rate was then applied in combination with a five percent down payment and 25 year amortization period to determine mortgage payment (interest and principal) for each community.

Average monthly rental costs for each location were obtained through Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing, Housing Services Division's *Apartment Vacancy & Rental Cost Survey* and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) *Rental Market Report*.

To derive the average monthly property tax bill in each survey community for September 2007, local/municipal government offices provided residential mill rates for each community. Residential mill rates were applied to the average housing price surveyed in each community to derive an average monthly tax bill.

In order to calculate monthly natural gas, electricity, water, sewage, and garbage disposal charges per household in each of the surveyed communities, an average monthly household consumption figure was obtained for each item from local/municipal government offices and/or suppliers of each utility. The consumption figure was then multiplied by the applicable rates to derive typical household costs in each community. Utility suppliers provided delivery charges, consumption charges, administration or billing charges, municipal franchise fees, and rebates that were applied to each location where applicable.

3.4 Weighting Factors

Price indices may be calculated as weighted or not weighted. The disadvantage of "unweighted" price indices is that their relative importance to the consumer is not taken into consideration, therefore equal weight or "importance" is assigned to all goods and their prices. By assigning equal weight to various goods, a distortion of the index can be created. For example, a change in the price of milk would not carry the same significance to a consumer as would a change in the price of meat. If these goods were given equal weight, the resulting change in the overall index would not be accurately measured in terms of their actual consumer impact.

In order to avoid this problem, weights have been assigned to all goods and services priced in the 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey. Weights are provided by Statistics Canada and are derived from Survey of Household Spending data. Assigning a weight to each survey item serves to: 1) ensure that goods or services reflect their relative importance to the consumer, 2) correctly calculate a spatial price index, and 3) avoid exerting undue influence on the spatial indices creating a distortion on the true magnitude of the overall price difference between communities.

The 2007 Alberta Spatial Price survey uses a subset of the basket used by Statistics Canada that determines monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Edmonton and Calgary. The Statistics Canada basket is based on the expenditures of a target population in a certain reference period, i.e. 2005. As such, the basket for the 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is weighted according to 2005 basket (at the April 2007 CPI expenditure prices) weights for Alberta and accounts for 80.4 percent of the weighted CPI basket. A normalized weighting distribution for the 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey basket of goods and services is presented in Figure 4 located in the Appendices. The chart indicates that the weighting pattern used for each aggregate index in the 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is relatively consistent with the 2005 CPI basket of goods and services' weight distribution.[1]

3.5 Index Construction

For the purpose of this survey, an aggregate price index was generated using prices observed for 292 commodities in each of the 34 communities. Table 6 in the Appendices outlines the basket of goods and services used to generate the Edmonton based indices. Several items listed in Statistics Canada's CPI basket were excluded due to the lack of availability or comparability of these items in some survey locations. For each survey community, a total of twenty aggregates are produced which include three aggregate and seventeen sub aggregate indices. The indices are provided in Tables 2 through 5 found in the Appendices.

The aggregate indices constructed for each survey community include:

1. An all commodity index (up to 292 items);
2. A food index (up to 109 items);
3. A non food index (up to 183 items); and
4. A commodity category specific index (up to 45 items per each individual category).

Seventeen category specific indices form subsets of the aggregate food and non food indices.

[1] Results for the 'Recreation, Education & Reading' category provide reduced comparability to provincial expenditure patterns, due to temporal and seasonal considerations.

The specific food indices are:

- Dairy Products
- Fats and Oils
- Cereals and Breads
- Processed Fruits and Vegetables
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Meat, Fish, Poultry and Substitutes
- Frozen and Packaged Food
- Restaurant Meals

The non food indices are:

- Personal Care Products
- Household Supplies
- Household Services
- Household Equipment
- Recreation and Leisure
- Transportation
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Utilities

More complex indices are needed to capture, in a single value, several commodities per location. The most common method of simultaneously comparing several prices between different communities is to compare their averages. For example, suppose prices have been observed for three specific goods in two communities where Location A serves as the base community and Location B is the comparative community. The price of good 1 in Location A is denoted as P_{A1}, and in Location B as P_{B1}. The price ratio for good 1 would therefore be (P_{B1}/P_{A1}), for good 2: (P_{B2}/P_{A2}), and for good 3: (P_{B3}/P_{A3}).

To construct an aggregate price index that compares the average of the price ratios between communities, the price ratios are summed and then divided by the number of entries in the sum. To derive an aggregate index value, the average price index of the three commodities is multiplied by 100. The construction of this aggregate price index is:

Aggregate Price Index =

$$\frac{\left[(P_{B1}/P_{A1}) + (P_{B2}/P_{A2}) + (P_{B3}/P_{A3})\right]}{\text{Number of Ratios}} \times 100$$

An aggregate price index of 145.0 implies that the prices of the selected goods in Location B are 45 per cent higher than in Location A. Conversely, a price index of 97.0 indicates that prices are 3 per cent lower in Location B than in Location A.

Price ratios are constructed and compare each community with Edmonton. These ratios are then weighted and summed to calculate the various indices. More specifically, the process in deriving the index calculations for the 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is as follows:

Step 1: Ratio of Prices

$$\frac{\text{Average Price of Item in Community A}}{\text{Average Price of Item in Edmonton}}$$

Step 2: Weighted Ratio:
Ratio of Prices x Item Weight

Step 3: Category Index:

$$\frac{\sum(\text{Weighted Ratio for a Category})}{\sum(\text{Item Weights for Category})} \times 100$$

3.6 Data Collection

Employees of Alberta Finance, Statistics surveyed items through personal visits to retail and service establishments in each survey community. Where possible, staff was hired from each of the local communities to conduct the pricing. To ensure a representative sample of prices, survey personnel collected a minimum of three prices per item in each community. Pricers were asked to disregard special or sale prices on items and to record only regular prices without GST to improve data reliability and confidence.

3.7 Data Processing

Data analysis was performed using SAS software. Extensive data editing and verification procedures were utilized to ensure item consistency between the base location (Edmonton) and the other survey communities.

3.8 Guarantee of Confidentiality

The survey was conducted in accordance with The Statistics (Bureau) Act of Alberta, Chapter S-18 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, whereby confidentiality is guaranteed under this Act.

3.9 Cautionary Notes

The reader should note that when using the indices in this publication, the following assumptions and limitations should be kept in mind:

1. The purpose of this survey is to produce spatial price indices that compare price levels in selected communities to those in Edmonton at a specific point in time. The indices constructed for this publication cannot be compared over time to determine price changes.

2. The expenditure weights of the 292 item basket of goods and services are based on the weighting pattern for Alberta from Statistic Canada's Survey of Household Spending data. Since expenditure weighting patterns are unavailable for other survey communities, they are assumed to be the same as those used for Alberta. It is probable that in communities outside Edmonton, consumption and expenditure weighting patterns differ through the influence of local factors such as customs, tastes, incomes and product availability.

3. The 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey does not produce cost-of-living indices for the 34 selected communities. The present methodology employed does not incorporate many of the variables necessary to construct such an index. A cost of living index requires complete information about a person's tastes and consuming habits and measures price changes that are experienced by consumers in maintaining a constant standard of living. In this situation, consumers would normally switch between products as the price relationship of goods changes and may choose the cheaper of the interchangeable products. The 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey utilizes a fixed basket of goods and services to derive the price indices.

4. Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

4.0 Analysis of Edmonton Based Comparisons

The results of the 2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey are presented in Tables 2 to 5 and Figures 1 to 3 (Figures located in Appendices). For all indices, Edmonton prices serve as the reference base with each Edmonton index assigned a value of 100.0. All other indices reflect community prices relative to this base index. For example, communities with an index of 100.0 for any component category or for the total basket of goods and services experience prices equivalent to those in Edmonton. Indices of less than 100.0 indicate community prices were lower than the base community while centres with indices greater than 100.0 recorded prices higher than in Edmonton. As a note, the number of items priced and the weighting patterns can vary between commodity categories for each community surveyed due to lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

4.1 All Commodity Indices

Table 2 and Figure 1 present the aggregate **All-Commodity Indices** for each community. Included in Table 2 are the overall weighting patterns for each community and the number of items surveyed.

For the 2007 survey, Wainwright recorded the lowest price index of 89.3. The three highest all commodities indices were reported for Fort McMurray, Canmore, and Jasper at 110.6, 105.7, and 104.0 respectively. Fort McMurray's high all commodity index may be attributed to its high sub aggregate indices for Shelter. One other community, Calgary, 101.8, observed a higher all commodity index in comparison to the Edmonton base.

4.2 Food Indices

Overall **Food Indices** are provided in Table 3 and Figure 2. The indices range from 93.5 (Lethbridge) to 114.7 (Jasper). Jasper's eight food subcategories ranged from 105.4 to 127.7 with the highest value representing Frozen & Packaged Foods. Although Fort McMurray reported the highest all commodity index, this location had three food sub aggregate indices lower than Edmonton.

4.3 Non-Food Indices

Table 4 and Figure 3 present the **Non-Food Indices** for each community. When compared to Edmonton, four communities reported higher non food indices ranging from 101.1 (Jasper) to 112.3 (Fort McMurray); the two other communities included, Calgary and Canmore, 101.2 and 106.3 respectfully. Wainwright exhibited the lowest non food index of 88.3. In addition, Canmore and Fort McMurray reported indices greater than Edmonton's base of 100.0 for eight of the nine specific non food categories.

In general, the higher non food indices may be attributed to the significant influence exerted by the shelter component in the spatial price survey. While the shelter category accurately reflects the cost of housing in each community for similar structures, many qualitative aspects such as location/neighborhood, age of dwelling, finish, etc. may not be fully accounted for in determining real estate values for each of these communities. For this reason, caution must be exercised in generalizing trends for individual commodity categories based on the aggregate indices for the non food component of this survey.

4.4 Commodity Category Indices

Table 5 provides a breakdown of both the food and non-food components into their seventeen **sub-component commodity categories**. The highest Shelter index of 136.8 was reported for Fort McMurray followed by Canmore at 110.6. The community of Brooks possessed the lowest Utilities price index of 88.1 in comparison to other surveyed communities that ranged from 88.5 (Wainwright) and 89.9 (Medicine Hat) to 111.3 (Grand Prairie).

Figure 4 in the Appendices illustrates that approximately 62.3 per cent of the total survey basket weight is comprised of food, shelter, and transportation. In addition, recreation, education and reading account for 10.4 per cent of total basket of goods and services used in the survey.

In comparison to Edmonton, several surveyed communities reported higher sub aggregate price indices for the categories of Dairy, Fats & Oils, and Frozen & Packaged Foods. Lower price indices were observed for the commodity categories of Shelter, Clothing, and Household Services.

Although these indices are accurate, they may not adequately represent many qualitative differences.

5.0 APPENDIX

Table 2: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Commodity Indices

Number of Items Surveyed, Weighting Patterns, and Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
September 2007

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF ITEMS SURVEYED*	WEIGHTING PATTERN*	ALL COMMODITY INDICES
Edmonton	292	80.4	100.0
Athabasca	271	78.1	97.7
Barrhead	287	79.7	94.1
Brooks	283	79.6	94.4
Calgary	292	80.4	101.8
Camrose	284	79.0	95.0
Canmore	285	78.6	105.7
Cold Lake	287	79.9	94.0
Drayton Valley	278	78.3	96.0
Drumheller	272	78.0	94.4
Fort McMurray	286	80.1	110.6
Grande Cache	263	68.8	97.2
Grande Prairie	287	80.0	99.6
Hanna	278	78.4	98.8
High Level	285	79.5	96.0
High Prairie	280	79.2	99.1
High River	276	79.0	96.1
Hinton	285	79.4	93.6
Jasper	262	67.8	104.0
Lethbridge	290	80.3	92.5
Lloydminster	285	79.4	92.0
Medicine Hat	291	80.2	93.3
Olds	259	75.9	96.7
Peace River	286	75.5	95.0
Pincher Creek	275	78.2	93.0
Ponoka	281	79.2	93.2
Red Deer	292	80.4	96.5
Rocky Mountain House	283	79.1	94.7
Slave Lake	285	79.2	97.2
St. Paul	290	80.0	92.5
Stettler	288	79.6	91.3
Taber	281	78.2	94.2
Vegreville	285	79.4	90.3
Wainwright	286	79.6	89.3
Whitecourt	280	79.3	95.1

* Note: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

Table 3: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Food Indices

Number of Food Items Surveyed, Weighting Patterns, and Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
September 2007

Community	Number of Items Surveyed*	Weighting Pattern*	Food Indices
Edmonton	109	14.5	100.0
Athabasca	103	14.4	105.7
Barrhead	106	14.4	105.9
Brooks	107	14.5	107.2
Calgary	109	14.5	104.5
Camrose	109	14.5	102.3
Canmore	109	14.5	102.7
Cold Lake	108	14.5	98.0
Drayton Valley	107	14.4	101.1
Drumheller	104	14.4	102.9
Fort McMurray	108	14.5	103.1
Grande Cache	107	14.5	108.2
Grande Prairie	109	14.5	103.1
Hanna	108	14.5	109.6
High Level	108	14.5	106.9
High Prairie	107	14.5	112.0
High River	107	14.5	99.9
Hinton	109	14.5	108.3
Jasper	105	14.4	114.7
Lethbridge	109	14.5	93.5
Lloydminster	109	14.5	104.1
Medicine Hat	109	14.5	100.7
Olds	109	14.5	98.5
Peace River	109	14.5	106.0
Pincher Creek	108	14.5	98.6
Ponoka	108	14.5	100.8
Red Deer	109	14.5	97.1
Rocky Mountain House	109	14.5	98.6
Slave Lake	109	14.5	102.7
St. Paul	109	14.5	99.8
Stettler	109	14.5	97.0
Taber	108	14.5	106.8
Vegreville	109	14.5	98.1
Wainwright	108	14.5	93.8
Whitecourt	107	14.5	103.1

* Note: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

Table 4: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Non-Food Indices

Number of Non-Food Items Surveyed, Weighting Patterns, and Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
September 2007

Community	Number of Items Surveyed*	Weighting Pattern*	Non-Food Indices
Edmonton	183	65.8	100.0
Athabasca	168	63.7	95.8
Barrhead	181	65.2	91.4
Brooks	176	65.1	91.6
Calgary	183	65.8	101.2
Camrose	175	64.5	93.3
Canmore	176	64.0	106.3
Cold Lake	179	65.4	93.1
Drayton Valley	171	63.9	94.9
Drumheller	168	63.6	92.5
Fort McMurray	178	65.6	112.3
Grande Cache	156	54.3	94.3
Grande Prairie	178	65.5	98.8
Hanna	170	63.8	96.3
High Level	177	65.0	93.5
High Prairie	173	64.7	96.1
High River	169	64.6	95.2
Hinton	176	64.9	90.3
Jasper	157	53.4	101.1
Lethbridge	181	65.8	92.3
Lloydminster	176	64.9	89.3
Medicine Hat	182	65.7	91.7
Olds	150	61.4	96.3
Peace River	177	65.0	92.5
Pincher Creek	167	63.7	91.7
Ponoka	173	64.7	91.5
Red Deer	183	65.8	96.4
Rocky Mountain House	174	64.5	93.9
Slave Lake	176	64.7	96.0
St. Paul	181	65.4	90.9
Stettler	179	65.0	90.1
Taber	173	63.6	91.3
Vegreville	176	64.8	88.6
Wainwright	178	65.1	88.3
Whitecourt	173	64.8	93.4

* Note: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Commodity Category Indices

Number of Food Items Surveyed and Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
September 2007

Community	Dairy		Fats & Oils		Cereals & Breads		Processed Fruits & Vegetables	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	11	100.0	2	100.0	14	100.0	14
Athabasca	114.0	10	100.8	2	99.7	14	102.4	14
Barrhead	117.5	11	114.3	2	95.7	14	112.2	14
Brooks	110.3	11	111.2	2	102.0	14	110.0	14
Calgary	103.1	11	106.8	2	103.2	14	100.7	14
Camrose	101.8	11	109.0	2	93.5	14	102.3	14
Canmore	105.7	11	111.5	2	93.8	14	110.2	14
Cold Lake	107.0	11	101.9	2	102.4	14	96.7	14
Drayton Valley	102.9	11	101.9	2	98.5	14	92.6	14
Drumheller	107.7	11	103.7	2	111.9	14	94.6	14
Fort McMurray	108.0	11	105.1	2	99.7	14	103.1	14
Grande Cache	106.4	10	118.6	1	104.7	14	105.3	14
Grande Prairie	101.1	11	104.4	2	97.8	14	103.7	14
Hanna	113.0	11	113.3	2	114.8	14	114.9	14
High Level	108.3	11	108.8	2	111.4	14	107.7	14
High Prairie	119.6	11	109.7	2	113.9	14	118.3	14
High River	103.3	11	110.1	2	96.0	14	93.0	14
Hinton	109.8	11	116.8	2	110.9	14	113.5	14
Jasper	113.9	11	117.1	2	123.4	14	110.2	14
Lethbridge	94.0	11	104.8	2	95.6	14	97.8	14
Lloydminster	103.0	11	105.0	2	96.0	14	99.1	14
Medicine Hat	102.1	11	102.6	2	94.5	14	100.0	14
Olds	103.9	11	93.1	2	92.3	14	91.2	14
Peace River	111.3	11	112.0	2	111.3	14	103.9	14
Pincher Creek	104.9	11	104.2	2	98.0	14	94.4	14
Ponoka	101.3	11	107.8	2	104.2	14	102.7	14
Red Deer	96.8	11	96.7	2	98.7	14	98.2	14
Rocky Mtn.House	100.4	11	102.8	2	95.5	14	95.5	14
Slave Lake	104.0	11	98.8	2	109.4	14	93.6	14
St. Paul	105.8	11	109.8	2	98.6	14	94.3	14
Stettler	102.7	11	98.3	2	91.6	14	97.9	14
Taber	108.8	11	111.8	2	98.4	14	115.8	14
Vegreville	110.9	11	107.1	2	97.3	14	92.5	14
Wainwright	107.4	11	104.8	2	92.5	14	90.7	14
Whitecourt	105.6	11	103.9	1	108.5	14	89.9	14

* Note: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Commodity Category Indices cont…

Number of Food Items Surveyed and Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
September 2007

Community	Fresh Fruit & Vegetables		Meat, Fish, Poultry & Substitutes		Frozen & Packaged Foods		Restaurant Meals	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	14	100.0	27	100.0	22	100.0	5
Athabasca	109.4	13	91.1	26	126.7	20	100.1	4
Barrhead	119.8	14	106.2	25	120.5	21	91.8	5
Brooks	109.0	13	109.3	27	119.6	21	98.5	5
Calgary	107.3	14	97.6	27	108.9	22	106.9	5
Camrose	110.1	14	100.5	27	111.4	22	99.0	5
Canmore	101.8	14	104.6	27	113.4	22	96.7	5
Cold Lake	102.8	13	93.1	27	108.5	22	88.1	5
Drayton Valley	106.1	12	96.0	27	106.1	22	100.8	5
Drumheller	101.3	14	96.6	26	104.2	20	102.2	3
Fort McMurray	91.7	14	99.4	27	109.4	21	104.4	5
Grande Cache	114.8	14	101.8	27	113.9	22	108.6	5
Grande Prairie	111.5	14	110.7	27	110.3	22	94.7	5
Hanna	125.3	13	113.1	27	120.9	22	91.8	5
High Level	118.2	14	99.5	27	108.0	21	104.1	5
High Prairie	122.9	12	108.9	27	121.0	22	100.7	5
High River	102.6	14	93.6	26	111.9	21	96.3	5
Hinton	123.6	14	112.9	27	119.0	22	92.1	5
Jasper	121.5	12	108.6	26	127.7	21	105.4	5
Lethbridge	93.2	14	92.9	27	98.7	22	88.7	5
Lloydminster	111.1	14	99.4	27	110.9	22	104.7	5
Medicine Hat	97.8	14	98.1	27	105.4	22	102.4	5
Olds	105.3	14	92.8	27	104.5	22	97.8	5
Peace River	114.6	14	108.3	27	114.0	22	93.4	5
Pincher Creek	96.0	14	95.3	27	103.6	22	96.9	4
Ponoka	107.3	13	93.4	27	109.7	22	95.3	5
Red Deer	89.9	14	89.3	27	93.5	22	100.4	5
Rocky Mtn.House	105.2	14	95.1	27	106.3	22	94.7	5
Slave Lake	110.9	14	97.1	27	100.5	22	102.8	5
St. Paul	102.8	14	91.8	27	111.8	22	95.1	5
Stettler	102.9	14	91.7	27	105.5	22	93.0	5
Taber	112.7	14	107.2	27	110.5	21	103.6	5
Vegreville	92.3	14	94.7	27	105.2	22	94.0	5
Wainwright	86.9	13	95.5	27	93.7	22	91.1	5
Whitecourt	107.3	13	96.2	27	102.1	22	105.2	5

* Note: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Commodity Category Indices cont…

Number of Non-Food Items Surveyed and Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
September 2007

Community	Personal Care Products		Household Supplies		Household Services		Household Equipment	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	21	100.0	25	100.0	17	100.0	21
Athabasca	108.1	19	115.0	24	97.2	15	105.9	13
Barrhead	113.2	21	111.6	25	92.2	17	102.9	21
Brooks	107.9	20	111.9	25	96.6	15	90.1	20
Calgary	95.2	21	100.7	25	121.6	17	108.7	21
Camrose	103.4	21	106.5	25	95.7	17	104.5	19
Canmore	106.6	21	109.9	25	113.8	15	117.8	21
Cold Lake	102.2	21	103.3	25	89.3	15	115.9	21
Drayton Valley	92.1	20	102.3	25	92.7	14	97.6	17
Drumheller	99.1	20	111.1	25	103.7	12	106.1	17
Fort McMurray	100.3	21	101.8	25	111.0	15	113.6	19
Grande Cache	123.2	21	103.0	23	80.7	8	98.8	17
Grande Prairie	103.6	21	98.6	25	108.8	17	106.7	16
Hanna	120.3	21	119.1	25	93.7	13	110.9	17
High Level	111.8	21	119.5	25	100.5	17	97.4	16
High Prairie	118.4	21	115.3	25	92.6	14	99.6	16
High River	103.7	20	105.8	23	93.3	14	98.1	16
Hinton	104.9	19	102.4	23	91.0	17	99.3	21
Jasper	124.1	21	116.3	22	102.4	8	107.5	20
Lethbridge	97.5	20	96.4	25	97.7	17	105.5	21
Lloydminster	94.0	20	103.2	25	92.7	15	96.8	18
Medicine Hat	100.8	21	104.7	25	99.2	17	96.2	21
Olds	98.9	19	107.3	24	102.1	7	106.3	15
Peace River	112.2	21	108.6	25	108.0	15	98.2	20
Pincher Creek	104.1	20	106.4	25	95.5	13	103.6	15
Ponoka	104.0	21	110.9	25	91.2	12	105.0	20
Red Deer	100.3	21	95.6	25	95.4	17	98.5	21
Rocky Mtn.House	107.1	20	107.4	25	100.7	15	99.6	19
Slave Lake	101.3	21	100.2	25	103.0	14	98.9	20
St. Paul	112.4	21	107.3	25	99.8	17	108.7	21
Stettler	96.7	21	94.3	25	90.8	16	112.7	19
Taber	104.6	20	109.5	25	96.3	15	90.5	19
Vegreville	97.8	21	97.4	25	89.4	15	87.2	19
Wainwright	103.0	21	100.2	25	92.9	15	104.8	21
Whitecourt	96.4	19	94.3	25	91.2	12	96.5	20

* Note: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Commodity Category Indices cont…

Number of Non-Food Items Surveyed and Aggregate Indices
Selected Alberta Communities
September 2007

Community	Recreation & Leisure		Transportation		Clothing		Shelter		Utilities	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	34	100.0	19	100.0	38	100.0	5	100.0	3
Athabasca	101.2	33	92.4	18	99.4	38	88.2	5	102.7	3
Barrhead	95.4	33	99.4	18	98.8	38	71.7	5	92.7	3
Brooks	98.3	33	102.6	17	92.6	38	72.9	5	88.1	3
Calgary	102.7	34	101.8	19	96.7	38	94.6	5	102.8	3
Camrose	95.3	34	91.0	16	99.3	35	84.9	5	102.3	3
Canmore	109.6	32	100.9	17	103.7	37	110.6	5	91.6	3
Cold Lake	93.0	34	100.9	17	92.0	38	77.4	5	99.0	3
Drayton Valley	96.9	32	106.9	18	91.2	37	82.5	5	93.9	3
Drumheller	98.7	31	95.1	18	89.1	37	75.3	5	106.5	3
Fort McMurray	102.4	33	100.6	19	98.0	38	136.8	5	105.3	3
Grande Cache	104.2	31	96.6	10	95.9	38	83.4	5	100.5	3
Grande Prairie	100.2	34	99.4	19	98.2	38	89.4	5	111.3	3
Hanna	107.8	32	105.8	16	95.1	38	72.0	5	103.4	3
High Level	106.7	34	105.0	18	103.4	38	61.2	5	108.2	3
High Prairie	113.9	34	108.3	17	100.3	38	69.3	5	96.9	3
High River	90.2	34	94.6	16	109.8	38	92.1	5	96.7	3
Hinton	94.3	34	95.3	17	91.7	37	77.4	5	90.9	3
Jasper	106.1	28	97.0	12	127.7	38	88.0	5	104.9	3
Lethbridge	93.2	34	93.2	19	86.8	37	84.8	5	98.6	3
Lloydminster	98.4	34	92.6	18	85.2	38	74.1	5	101.6	3
Medicine Hat	96.0	34	98.1	18	92.4	38	78.0	5	89.9	3
Olds	98.8	26	108.4	14	106.2	37	78.2	5	92.5	3
Peace River	96.3	33	95.8	17	92.8	38	74.4	5	104.1	3
Pincher Creek	95.4	33	112.5	15	95.3	38	58.9	5	102.7	3
Ponoka	94.8	33	95.5	16	91.8	38	75.9	5	101.8	3
Red Deer	105.5	34	100.7	19	102.9	38	87.6	5	94.0	3
Rocky Mtn House	100.1	33	93.8	16	102.2	38	82.1	5	97.3	3
Slave Lake	96.8	33	93.8	17	101.4	38	90.6	5	104.9	3
St. Paul	100.2	34	89.8	17	90.9	38	70.9	5	109.3	3
Stettler	99.1	34	93.2	18	93.7	38	70.3	5	107.0	3
Taber	98.1	31	102.4	17	93.5	38	69.8	5	99.3	3
Vegreville	88.5	34	90.8	17	86.8	37	79.1	5	106.0	3
Wainwright	90.8	33	94.7	17	101.0	38	69.9	5	88.5	3
Whitecourt	95.2	34	101.2	17	94.9	38	83.4	5	94.1	3

* Note: Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

Figure 1: Map, All Commodity Indices by Location

Figure 2: Map, All Food Indices by Location

Figure 3: Map, All Non-Food Indices by Location

Figure 4: Percent Distribution of Weights by Category

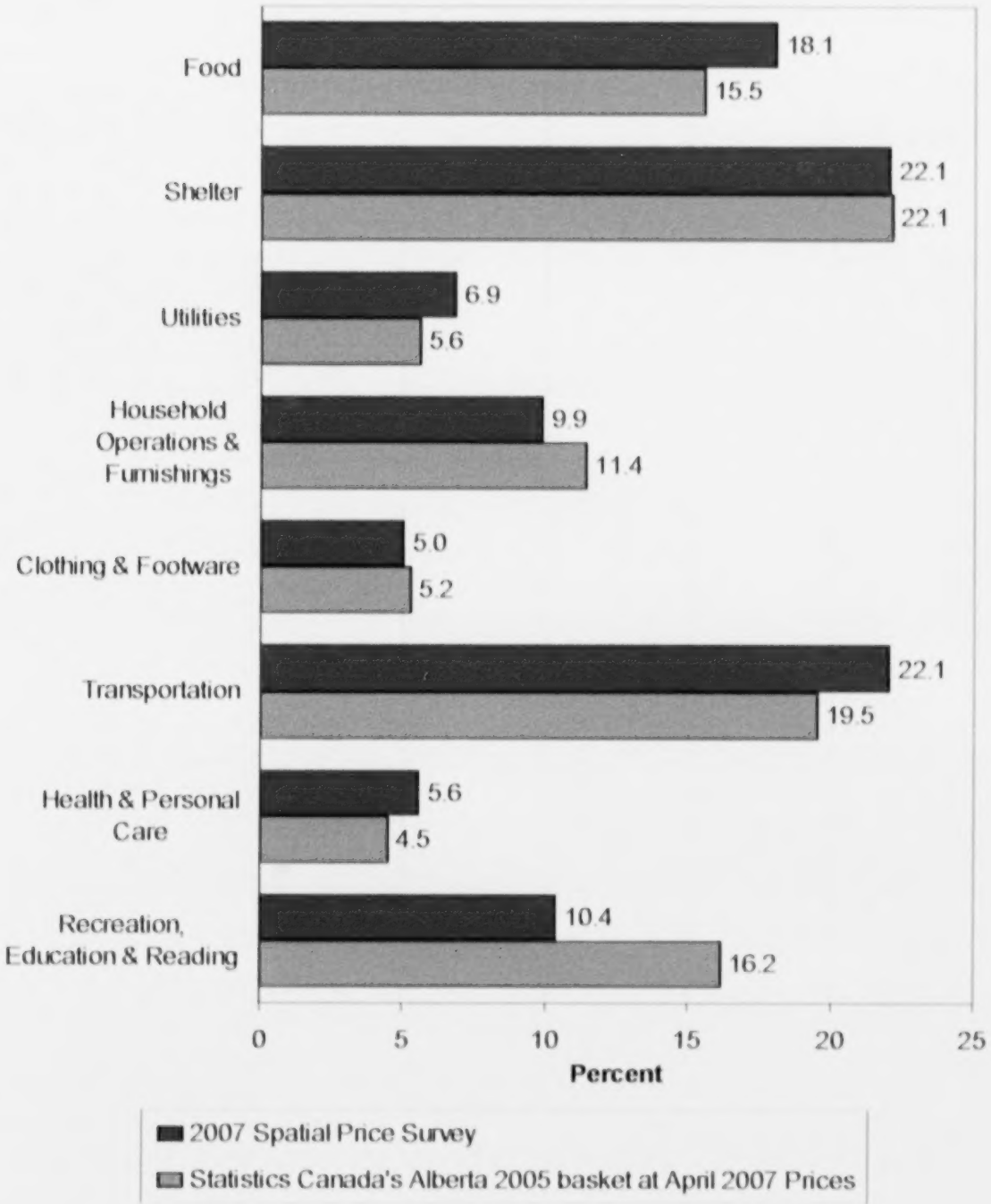

Table 6: Categories and Items Surveyed

CATEGORY	WEIGHT
1. Dairy	**1.45**
Butter	
Cheese	
Cottage Cheese	
Cream	
Ice Cream	
Milk - Canned	
Milk - Fresh	
Processed Cheese Slices	
Yogurt	
2. Fats & Oils	**0.12**
Cooking Oil	
Margarine	
3. Cereals & Breads	**1.73**
Bread	
Buns	
Cold Cereal	
Cookies	
Crackers	
Doughnuts	
Flour	
Macaroni	
Muffins	
Rice	
Rolled Oats	
4. Processed Fruits & Vegetables	**0.67**
Fruit - Canned	
Fruit Juice - Canned	
Fruit Juice - Frozen	
Fruit Juice - Packaged	
Jam	
Raisins	
Vegetables - Canned	
Vegetables - Frozen	
5. Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	**1.35**
Apples	
Bananas	
Broccoli	
Cabbage	
Cantaloupe	
Carrots	
Celery	

CATEGORY	WEIGHT
5. Fresh Fruits & Vegetables (cont.)	
Grapes	
Green Pepper	
Lettuce	
Onions	
Oranges	
Potatoes	
Tomatoes	
6. Meat, Fish, Poultry & Other	**2.35**
Beef - Various Cuts	
Chicken - Various Cuts	
Eggs	
Fish - Frozen	
Fish/Seafood - Canned	
Luncheon Meat - Canned	
Luncheon Meat - Prepared	
Peanuts	
Pork – Various Cuts	
Turkey - Frozen	
7. Frozen & Packaged Foods	**2.59**
Baby Food/Formula	
Black Pepper	
Cake - Frozen	
Cocoa Powder	
Coffee	
Fruit Flavored Crystals	
Ketchup	
Macaroni Dinner	
Meat Pies - Frozen	
Peanut Butter	
Pickles	
Potato Chips	
Salad Dressing	
Salt	
Soft Drinks	
Soup - Canned	
Spaghetti Sauce	
Sugar	
Tea	

Table 6: Categories and Items Surveyed cont…

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	CATEGORY	WEIGHT
8. Restaurant Meals	4.29	**11. Household Services**	4.22
Breakfast, Restaurant		Baby-Sitting	
Dinner, Restaurant		Chiropractic Services	
Lunch, Restaurant		Coin Operated Laundry	
Snack, Restaurant		Day Care	
Take-out Meal		Dry Cleaning	
		Hairstyling - Women's/Men's	
9. Personal Care Products	2.48	House Cleaning Service	
Analgesic - A.S.A		Internet Service	
Antiseptic		Lenses - Eyeglass/Contact	
Bandages		Shoe Repairs	
Bar Soap		Tooth Restoration	
Cleansing 'Cold' Cream		Veterinary Services	
Cold/Cough Remedy			
Contact Lens Solution		**12. Household Equipment**	3.87
Deodorant/Antiperspirant		Bath Towel	
Disposable Diapers		Bed Linens	
Feminine Hygiene		Cookware	
Lipstick		Dinnerware	
Men's Shaving Cream		Entertainment Center	
Prescription Medicine		Flatware	
Razor Blades - Men's		Glass Pie Plate	
Shampoo		Hammer	
Toothpaste		Major Appliances	
Women's Spray Cologne		Mattress & Box Spring	
		Paint	
10. Household Supplies	2.14	Power Tools	
All-Purpose Cleaner		Shingles - Roof	
Bleach		Small Appliances	
Cut/Potted Flowers		Vacuum Cleaner	
Dishwasher Detergent		Window Blinds	
Dog Food			
Dry Cell Batteries - Alkaline			
Envelopes			
Fabric Softener			
Facial Tissues			
Food Wrap			
Garbage Bags			
Laundry Detergent			
Light Bulbs			
Dish Soap – Liquid/Powder			
Paper Towels			
Scouring Powder			
Sewing Thread			
Solid Broadcloth			
Table Napkins - Paper			
Toilet Tissue			

Table 6: Categories and Items Surveyed cont…

Category	Weight	Category	Weight
13. Recreation & Leisure	8.36	**15. Clothing**	3.78
Beer/Liquor/Liqueur/Wine		Blazer - Women's	
Beer/Liquor/Wine - Served		Brassiere - Women's	
Cablevision		Briefs - Boy's/Girl's/Men's/Women's	
Camera – Digital/Video		Business Suit - Men's	
CD, Pre-Recorded Music		Denim Jeans - Boy's/Girl's/Men's	
CD/DVD Recordable Discs		Footwear - Boy's/Girl's/Men's/Women's	
Cigarettes		Gold Wedding Band	
Colour Picture Processing		Men's Footwear	
DVD Player		Outerwear - Men's/Women's	
DVD, Pre-Recorded Movie		Panty Hose - Women's	
Fitness Centre		Shirt - Dress - Men's/ Women's	
Hockey Stick		Shirt - Knit - Men's	
Motion Picture Admission		Slacks - Men's/Women's	
Movie Rental		Sleeper - Infant's	
MP3 Player		Sleepwear – Boy's/Girl's/Women's	
Newspaper		Socks - Boy's/Girl's/Men's	
Piano Lesson		Sweater - Women's	
Television		Sweat-shirt - Girl's	
Toys		Women's Shirt	
		Wrist Watch - Men's/Women's	
14. Transportation	17.74		
Antifreeze/Coolant		**16. Shelter**	17.72
Auto Insurance		Mortgage Interest	
Automobile Paint Job		Property Taxes	
Car Rental		Rental Costs	
Driving Lesson		Replacement Cost	
Gasoline		Tenant's Insurance	
Local Transit Fee			
Motor Oil		**17. Utilities**	5.51
New Vehicle Leasing		Electricity	
New Vehicle Purchase		Natural Gas	
Oil Change & Lubrication		Water, Sewage & Garbage	
Oil Filter			
Taxi Fare			
Wheel Alignment			

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2007 Alberta Spatial Price Survey

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